United Nations DP/FPA/2008/8

Executive Board of the
United Nations Development
Programme and of the
United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
1 April 2008

Original: English

Annual session 2008
16 to 27 June 2008, Geneva
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA - Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for Afghanistan and the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for Afghanistan as indicated in table 1, and approve the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan, as indicated in table 2.

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Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Afghanistan	2006-2008	2009	The formulation of the Afghanistan national development strategy will begin in March 2008. As a result, the United Nations country team has recommended that the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework be undertaken in 2008, after the finalization of the national development strategy.	The development of the Afghanistan national development strategy is a government-led process. It is supported by the international community, under the auspices of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, which is co-chaired by the Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The participation of the United Nations country team in the national analytical process will create opportunities: (a) for dialogue with government and international partners to identify critical trends and disparities; (b) for the involvement of stakeholders to conduct consultations on the interim Afghanistan national development strategy in the 34 provinces of Afghanistan; (c) for discussions on capacity development; and (d) to enable the Government, the United Nations and the international community to undertake a quality analysis of development issues.	The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects being implemented in Afghanistan.

Table 2. Extensions of country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Pakistan	2004-2008	2009-2010	The United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies in Pakistan are requesting a two-year extension of their country programmes in order to align them with the government national planning cycle, 2005-2010. The United Nations system in Pakistan also agreed to extend the United Nations Development Assistance Framework so that it could reflect the United Nations 'delivering as one' programme for which Pakistan is a pilot country.	The Government has agreed to the extension of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in order to ensure alignment with the national cycle of development planning. Recent political developments have made it more difficult to achieve expected results during the original time frame of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the country programme (2004-2008).	Heightened security concerns and additional needs resulting from natural disasters and their aftermath will be incorporated in the UNFPA-supported country programme in Pakistan. This will ensure continued delivery of results and programme monitoring.